Cooperative Farm Stockholders Meet; Pay Dividends

WABASH, Ark.,—(ANP)— Stockholders in the Lakeview Cooperative association met in the library of the schoolhouse on the recently dedicated Farm Security administration 5,600 acre homeownership project Tuesday night to hear the annual report of the association's board of directors and to elect directors to serve during the coming year.

The interest of the stockholders who comprise the heads of the 78 families in residence on the project in the affairs of the association which operates facilities for furnishing all the services to residents of the project which can better be supplied by group than by individual action was evidenced by a full attendance of the members.

Ed Johnson, president of the cooperative, announced that the cooperative store, after setting aside an appreciable amount of a reserve against future contingencies, was able to declare a patronage dividend. Checks were handed out on the spot, ranging from $27.50 to members who had been in residence for a full year, and who had made purchases from the store in proportion to their length of stay and the size of their family, down to $1.52 to a member who had joined the association only a month before. In all, $900 was distributed to the 83 stockholders of the association.

Yet to be heard from are the other enterprises conducted by the association, including the cotton gin, the grits mill, the syrup mill the blacksmith and implement repair shop, and the livestock enterprise, which owns several purebred sires.

Of these only the gin is expected to show more than a nominal profit, as operations were not begun until late in the year. The gin, however, due partly to the fact that the seed of much of the cotton ginned for the members graded above prime and brought a premium when sold, is expected to show a substantial profit. Whether this profit will be used to expand the ginning facilities so that outside business can be taken care of, or whether it will be distributed as a patronage dividend has not been decided by the board of directors.

Only two of the directors of the association came up for re-election at this year's annual meeting. President Ed Johnson, one of the two whose terms as director expired, was elected with little opposition, but the contest for the other vacant positions was spirited, ending in the selection of Roscoe Handley to replace John Weaver, who served during the past year. Other members of the board are George Berry and Arch Steele, elected last year for a two year term, and Ben Rives, who still has two more years to serve. Officers for the coming term will be elected by the directors, as provided by Arkansas law, at their meeting.

At the meeting it was announced that final figures for the season showed a production of lint cotton on the project of 382 pounds per acre—well above both state and national production records.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
September 3, 1939

...al Brings Quick

Negro Resettlement, Malaria Control Big Tasks in Santee

2,500 Who Will Be Moved Out of Region are Puzzled at Prospect—Mosquitoes to Be Difficult Health Problem

This is the final article setting forth the findings of John O'Reilly, staff correspondent of the New York Herold Tribune, following a two weeks' survey of the $40,000,000 Santee-Cooper Hydroelectric Power and Navigation Project in the historic Lowcountry of South Carolina. It is reprinted from the Herald-Tribune.

By JOHN O'REILLY

The South Carolina Public Service Authority, which is administering the construction of the Santee-Cooper Hydroelectric and Navigation project, has found that the creation of two reservoirs covering more than 250 square miles of flat, coastal country involves numerous problems not usually encountered in the building of power developments. One of these is the resettlement of hundreds of illiterate negroes, many of whom own no property from which to be resettled. Another one is the control of malaria, which already is widespread in the low, swampy region to be covered by the project.

In the first place, it is difficult even to learn how many negroes there are in the area. They live in little cabins back in the woods, and when a representative of the authority comes along they are just as likely to hide out as not. Or perhaps they are passing the day fishing for catfish along the river when the authority man comes along to talk about resettlement. The authority estimates that there are between 2,500 and 3,000 persons living in the area to be flooded and that about four-fifths of them are negroes.

Everywhere South Carolinians are waiting and discussing this attempt to change the topography of such a large area of the Lowcountry. They are wondering whether the changes predicted for the life in a large part of their state and the prosperity that is expected to come to them will actually take place. Many of them are surprised that South Carolina, of all states, should be the first to follow the federal government's example and attempt socialization of the power industry.

Normally South Carolinians are easygoing people who follow the same pattern of life that has existed in their state since the Civil war. Now they are more excited than they have been about anything for a long time. Many are glad to see $40,000,000 of federal funds being spent in South Carolina, but they are waiting to see what lasting benefits will come from it. They agree that the South Carolina public service authority has a terrific job on its hands.

Look Up to Plantation Owner

Although money is a luxury among the negroes, they are not starving under their present conditions. Many of them own little farms of a few acres where they raise patches of corn and cotton tilling the soil with the aid of an ancient mule or an ox. They work for each other and trade around for necessities. They fish in the rivers and creeks and hunt in the swamp forests. Usually they have a few hogs running loose in the woods, and the Lowcountry negro passes a good part of his time hunting for his hogs.

There are also many who live on the plantations. Some are regularly employed by the plantation owners. Others are permitted to live in shacks on the plantation lands and get occasional odd jobs. When times get hard they take their troubles to the plantation owner, who invariably sees that things are straightened out, and they are not permitted to go hungry.

For generations these negroes have looked up to the plantation owners, depending on them for their livelihood and the settlement of their troubles. Now they have learned that these people who have always been able to settle their problems in the past are going to be flooded out, too, and it is hard for them to understand.

"If Marse Henry cain't stop this yere thing dat's comin', what's a po' nigger goin' t'do?" one of them said to this correspondent.

The project is utterly beyond the comprehension of many of the negroes. They all have heard about the old Santee canal, which was in operation from 1800 to 1850 between the Santee and Cooper rivers. They can still see the brickwork of the old locks and the channel overgrown with jungle, and they call it the "kinyal'. Now they just can't understand how the old "kinyal" is going to rise up again and flood them out of their homes.

Worried About Their Churches

They are worried about this, but they are just as worried about their churches. His church is an important thing in the life of a Lowcountry negro. These little ramshackle structures of pine boards stand at surprisingly frequent intervals along the dirt roads in the sparsely settled country. But when there is a church meeting the negroes put on their finery and come from all directions.

The Authority recognizes that the resettlement of these negroes is one of their most difficult problems. They are attempting to work it out on the basis of communities. In other words, the negroes living in one section will be moved in a group and resettled in another area outside the project. It is believed that in this manner those who have no property but work for or sponge on the others can just go along and take up the same mode of life in their new surroundings. Robert M. Cooper, general manager of the Authority, said the resettlement question was being given more attention than any other phase of land acquisition.

"Over and beyond the desire of the Authority to acquire the lands of these people," he said, "it is our plan to relocate them in surroundings greatly improved over those used by them at present. This entails the building of better houses, furnishing better land and more healthful conditions, always with a view to the ability of these people to support themselves rather than become burdens on the community."

The efforts of the Authority are not always met with a cordial reception. During prohibition parts of the region to be flooded were known as bootlegging centers. The swamps were infested with stills. The negroes came to know about "government" through the raids on these stills and got the impression that the raiders were "Uncle Sam's men". Now many of them are inclined to associate resettlement with raids on stills because they are both government functions.

Let Uncle Sam Come to Him

"If Uncle Sam want mah place he got to come in mah door hisself," said one negro who had been contemplating the rigors of resettlement.

The Authority has a special problem in the negro churches. Because the churches mean so much to the negroes, the officials adopted the plan of buying them and then giving the building back to the congregation with permission to move it into the resettlement area. In this manner it was planned, for instance, to pay $75 for a church. As the structure would be virtually worthless for salvage purposes, the negroes could then tear it down, cart it away and rebuild it.

This plan seemed to be a good one, but as PWA funds are being used on the project, officials in Washington refused to permit such a solution. However, officials of the Authority said that the problem had been ironed out and that the negroes would be permitted to move their places of worship.

During a tour of the project area this correspondent came upon a small church in Hog Swamp. Several hundred negroes in a wide variety of costume were assembled in front of the building. One of them was beating on a bass drum, the sound rolling out over the gathering in primitive rhythm. The others were jumping up and down and clapping their hands in time to the drum beat. For the time being they seemed to have forgotten the problems of resettlement.

Henry R. Dwight, a resident of Pinopolis, who accompanied this correspondent, explained that it was the Church of Reconciliation of the Reformed Episcopal denomination.

"They'll come for miles just to hear somebody beat a drum," Mr. Dwight said.

Malaria Problem is Difficult

The malaria problem is one of the most important which the authority is attempting to solve. A large portion of the area to be included in the reservoirs of the project is located in one of the worst malaria sections of the United States. The negroes and white persons who have small farms there regard malaria as a part of life in the Lowcountry. It has been feared that the creation of such large bodies of shallow water might bring an increase in malaria through providing extended areas where Anopholes quadrimaculatus, the mosquito which transmits malaria germs, might breed.

The authority has a health service department which is charged with the control of malaria while the project is under construction and after the reservoirs have been impounded. Draining of swamp areas near constructions camps and the spreading of larvacides on the water are now being practiced.

Officials of the health service department said that malaria control would be a terrific task in such large water areas suitable to the breeding of the malaria mosquito and if not handled properly might bring a severe malaria epidemic. A laboratory has been installed and extensive research is being carried on with the view of learning how to control the malaria mosquitoes in that region. Officials said that the problem was so great that all their work was being concentrated on the malaria mos quito and that no special attempts would be made to eradicate the varieties which do not spread the disease.

The problem of malaria control will be complicated by the fact that the Santee reservoir, largest of the two and which will cover about 155 square miles, will not be cleared of all standing trees. Only such trees which will produce marketable timber will be removed. The reservoir will be cleared of all vegetation for a mile out from the shore line, but trees will be left standing in the center of the huge shallow lake. Officials said that all this standing vegetation and resultant floatage would provide better breeding places for mosquitoes, but the borders of the lake were being cleared on the theory that malaria mosquitoes do not travel more than about a mile.

Review Year's Work at Delta Cooperative Farm

ROCHDAEE, Miss.— (ANP)—Officials of the Delta Cooperative Farm here this week reviewed the work accomplished the past year by members of the cooperatives and social welfare workers interested in improving the health, prosperity and living conditions of the workers and their families.

The Delta Cooperative Farm officials explained, was organized in the spring of 1936 to aid a few of the poorest economic class in America, the Southern sharecroppers and day laborers. According to government statistics, the income of these people ranges from $180 to $306 per year. This is the total gross income for an entire family. Many of these people, numbering all told from twelve to fifteen million, are forced to begin work in the cotton field at the age of five or six and live almost entirely without the benefit of education, medical care, or religious instructions.

The cooperative enterprise which began with the Delta Cooperative farm and now includes the Province Cooperative Farm, and a cooperative creamery, affect only a very small number of these people, but the enterprise has become one symbol of hope for them.

The farms are organized as producers cooperatives in which members work togther and share the fruits of their labor according to the amount of work performed. Goods are purchased at Rochdale consumers cooperative stores of which the first has a record of patronage dividends of about 9 percent for the past two years. Credit is obtained from a credit cooperative operated by the people themselves.

From the beginning, the acute need of medical care, both for farm members and those in the surrounding country was felt by all interested in the farms. In the first year of the Delta Cooperative Farm, a young trained nurse, Miss Lindsay Hail, now Mrs. A. E. Cox, volunteered her services without charge. Her support was later assumed by the Presbyterian church U.S.A. With a modest donation from another friend, a two-stor clinic was built from lumber use and sawed on the farm.

In 1938, a young physician, D David Minter, became a residen physician at the Delta Cooperativ Farm where he has made the clin ic a center for medical work. I one month's time the clinic ha ministered to over 600 individuals With a microscope given by th students of Berea College he run about ten tests daily which are o particular help in diagnosing ma laria, one of the chief scourges o the low Delta area. Weekly Dr Minter and Mrs. Cox hold a lue tic clinic for which 150 are now registered. Materials for this treatment of syphilitics are now furnished by the county, but the work was begun long before any aid was received.

Another need of equal importance has been that of general education, supplementing the State program both for children and adults at Rochdale. Negro children are given less than five months of schooling per year. Many of the adults on the farm and in the surrounding community have been denied almost all education opportunity.

The need is especially felt in the field of religion as the white sharecropper is one of the most unchurched groups in the country, and the general level of Negro church life in the cotton belt is, with some exceptions, such as not to commend religion to thoughtful members of the race. In a partial effort to meet this need, a community church was organized at Rochdale which opens its doors alike to Negroes and whites.

Such results as have been secured, however, have been in no small measure to the director of religious education, Miss Dorothy Fisher, who volunteered for service at Rochdale a year ago. Miss Fisher was formerly in charge of the national young people's work for the Episcopal church. She preaches in the community church directs religious education, keeps books for the credit cooperative, is organizer and adviser to the women's garment making department, manages the staff house cooperative, and carries on correspondence for the farm.

Cooperative Farm in Mississippi Aids Sharecroppers of Both Races

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HAS RESIDENT PHYSICIAN

In 1938 a young physician, Dr. David Minter, became a resident physician at the Delta Cooperative Farm where he has made the clinic a center for medical work. In one month the clinic ministered to over 600 individuals. With a microscope given by the students of Berea College he runs about ten tests daily which are of particular help in diagnosing malaria, one of the chief scourges of the low Delta area. Weekly Dr. Minter and Mrs. Cox hold a luetic clinic for which 150 are now registered.

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'Co-op' To Be Run By FSA Unit

Basic Training For Youth To Be Offered

WASHINGTON — (ANP) —Plans for an "interneship" farm project to be conducted on land adjoining Flint River farms, Montezuma, Ga. are nearing completion, according to information released this week by the Farm Security office here.

The project which has for its chief purpose the training of young farmers under typical farm situations, will be operated on a cooperative basis. Units vacated by farmers who have completed training will be taken by new families.

Operated in this fashion the project will provide interneships in cooperative operation and modern farm methods for a large number of new families, enabling them within a reasonable length of time, to maintain themselves and conserve the land they use in accordance with accepted, progressive agricultural practice.

Within the 40 year period of operation planned for it, between three and four hundred families will receive basic training during their interneship residence of this 40-unit tract. Each family will contribute its quota toward property payments. At the end of the 40 years, when payment is complete the land will be added to Flint River farms, the parent project, where 102 Negro families are already established on an ownership basis.

FEDE RAL FUNDS- 1939
RESETTLEMENT PROJECTS

Newton, Ga., News
January 5, 1939

Another project in this county which has attracted much attention and which is sponsored by the national government is the establishment of the Flint River Farms, negro resettlement experiment which includes 10,800 acres and upon which 102 families have been placed. If this succeeds it will be due to the supervision which will be given the project.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
March 5, 1939

NEW BUILDINGS FOR FLINT RIVER FARMS

MARSHALLVILLE, Ga., March 4.—An extensive building program is under way on the Flint River Farms, negro reehabilitation project in Macon County, under direction of Amos Ward, manager, and Tom Allen Tarrer. Erection of two all-steel houses has been completed and families have moved to the new buildings.

Seventy-seven families have operated farms on this project this year. Despite the heavy rains the farmers made good crops.

A nice school has been erected, with a shop, a health center and a work plant.

The houses have been painted, flowers and shrubs planted, and a night school is being planned.

Greensboro, N. C., News
March 29, 1939

NEGRO RESETTLEMENT PROJECT IS PROPOSED

Greensboro Daily News Bureau
623 Albee Building. (By Leased Wire)

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Following a White House conference today with President Roosevelt, Representative Arthur W. Mitchell, negro, of Chicago, announced that he will introduce legislation looking toward federal aid for a vast program to resettle destitute city-dwelling negroes on farmlands of the south.

Mitchell said he explained the plan in detail to the President and that the chief executive "appeared interested". Mitchell said he told President Roosevelt that the carrying out of his rural resettlement program for negroes would go a long way toward overcoming their economic plight.

Prairie Farms, FSA Project, Dedicated

Atlanta World
Atlanta, Ga

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—(SNS)—Prairie Farms, a rural resettlement project of the Farm Security Administration for Negro farmers of Macon County, dedicated its recently completed community center and school building Sunday afternoon with addresses by members of the state board of education, farm security administration and members of the faculty of Tuskegee Institute. Albert L. Turner, Registrar, Tuskegee Institute, made the principal address.

2-6-39

The Prairie Farms school building, modern in plan and equipment, was planned for the first six grades and an enrollment of 150. Because of the scarcity of good rural schools for the 8,000 Negro children of school age in Macon County, the Prairie Farms school is already faced with the problem of teaching 9 grades composed of 130 children.

Superintendent Riley said that inasmuch as only 5,000 of the 8,000 Negro children are enrolled it is well nigh impossible to reduce the crowded conditions until more school buildings are provided.

Miss Katherine Deetz, supervisor community centers of the Farm Security Administration, at the dedication service made it clear that the building was to be used for work and play not only by the 34 families who belong to the Prairie Farm project, but by all Negro families in the community.

Miss Deborah Cannon, principal-teacher trainer of the Prairie Farms school explained that thru co-operation of Prof. W. B. Riley, county superintendent of education and Tuskegee Institute, Prairie Farms was a laboratory school where student-teachers from Tuskegee Institute would receive practice in teaching rural children in a genuine rural setting. Children come from as far as 8 miles to the school.

Coleman D. Camp, project manager of the Prairie Farms, stated that although they were interested in having each farmer raise enough to meet his Farm Security Administration loans, they were equally interested in having the farmer rehabilitate himself, improve the health of his family, educate his children and raise his standard of living while he was paying off his loan.

Prof. Lambert of the state department said the community center-school building was symbolic, since if education is genuine it takes the school into the community into the school.

Project Clients In Cooperative Sales

Atlanta Daily World

WASHINGTON.—(ANP) Negro clients on Farm Security homestead projects are taking to cooperative marketing very rapidly, according to reports recently made by a representative in the Cooperative Service Section of the Resettlement Division, who has recently returned from a survey of southern projects.

Birmingham Dispatch

At Prairie Farms, near Tuskegee, Alabama, and at Flint River Farms, Montezuma, Ga., where suggestions of the cooperative staff were carried out, the cotton crops were sold out last week.

6-3-39

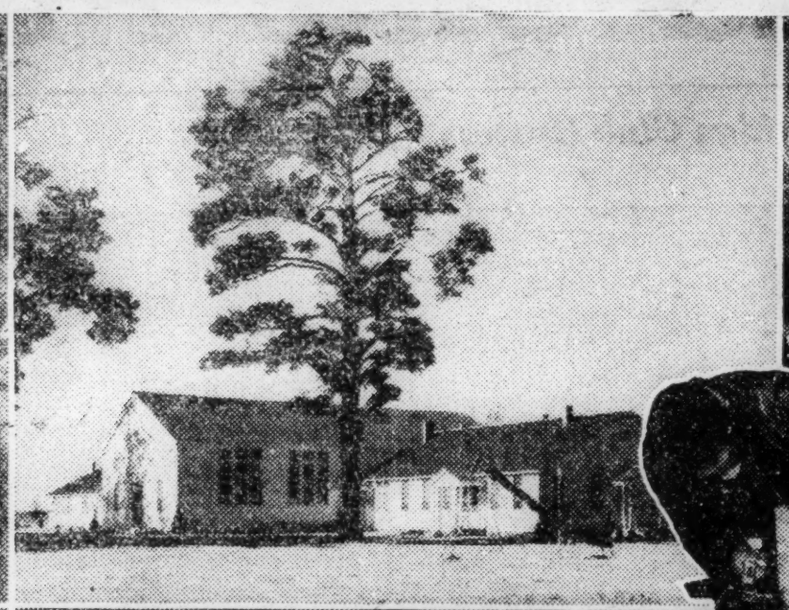
At Flint River, where 102 families are located, the crop of 340 bales netted over $3 per bale, clear of all charges, including payment on the Government loan, interest, storage and sampling—a total of more than $1,000 going directly back to the clients in profits. At Prairie Farms, a small project, the 208-bale crop netted a profit of $2.40 per bale. The crop at Gee's Bend, near Selma, Ala., has not yet been sold. Clients there, however, have cooperated fully with marketing plans, and will also net a substantial profit over the amount received from their Commodity Credit loans.

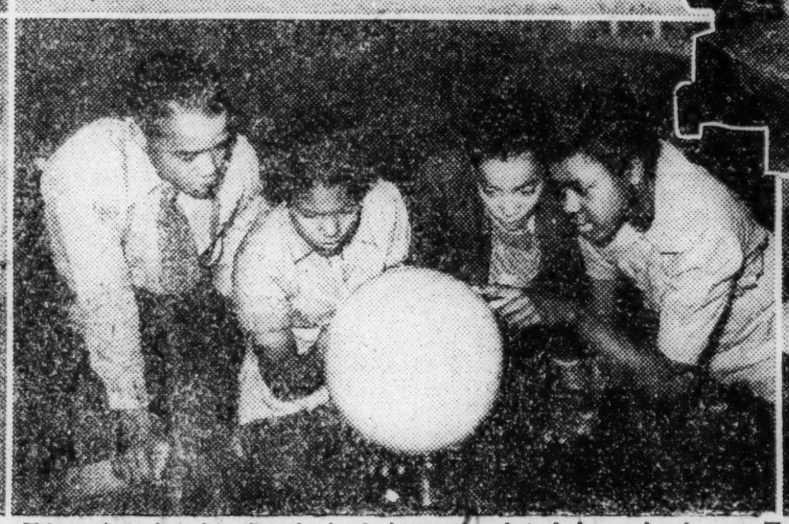
Birmingham Dispatch

In the Fifth Farm Security Region, which includes South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida, only one other project—the white project at Ashwood, South Carolina, "went along" with the plans. In the Third Region, the mixed project at La Forge, Mo., went over the top with a 1200-bale crop, about equally divided between white and Negro clients.

Last season, when cotton was hauled to the gin, seed was sold at the wagon price. This season arrangements were made to store the cotton. In an experiment conducted at Prairie Farms, the cooperative association paid each client the full wagon price at the time of delivery. When a car lot was accumulated by the cooperative, it was sold to the highest bidder, the clients earning over $7 per ton in excess dividends through this procedure.

FARM PROJECT SCHOOL SETS PACE I N RURAL EDUCATION



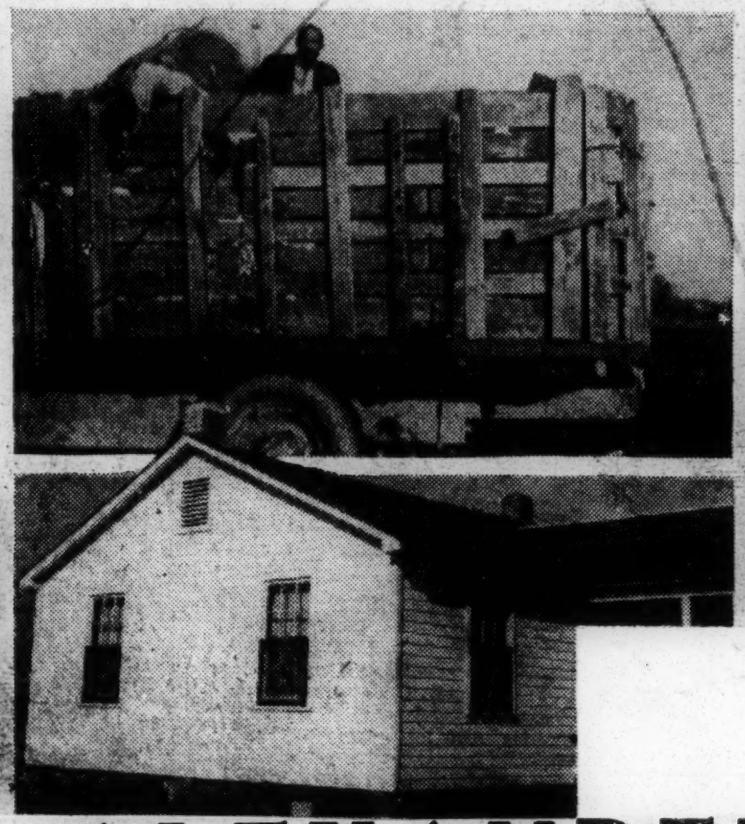


Education in the South is being stimulated by schools on Farm Security Administration projects. The school at the Lakeview, Arkansas, homestead project, was built and equipped by the FSA, and is staffed and operated by Phillips county. Here, two hundred country children receive instruction in elementary and high school subjects, vocational work, and community leadership. A W. P. A. teacher has charge of the nursery school. Above, upper center: the Lakeview school and community center. Upper left: nursery school children have their daily cod-liver oil. Lower left: A class in the primary school. Lower center: a junior high school geography class. Lower right: the staff of the Lakeview school paper at work. Upper right: making rag rugs in a girls' vocational class. The boy in the center is setting nails in a bookcase for his farm home.

FEDERAL FUNDS
RESETTLEMENT PROJECTS

TRANSYLVANIA PROJECT

TRANSYLVANIA, THE BLOT OF A NATION, A SETTLEMENT OF BLASTED HOMES



Federal government agencies are forcing all Negroes to move out of Transylvania, their Louisiana home for the past 100 years. The above scenes were recorded by a Courier cameraman who visited the settlement. Left: A family finds all its belongings piled upon the porch and a notice that it must vacate by morning to make room for a white family. Bottom center: The type of house being built in Transylvania for white farmers. Top center: A Negro farmer, former Transylvania resident, with all of his belongings, going to some new place. All of his household goods have been thrown into a truck. Right: This farmer had to move his corn. When he reached the new place, he found there was no barn, so he had to keep his corn in his kitchen.

DR. ALEXANDER TO PROBE "TRANSYLVANIA DISGRACE"

By O. C. W. TAYLOR
(Staff Correspondent)

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 2—According to word received by this correspondent from Dr. Will W. Alexander, administrator for the Farm Security Administration, a complete investigation is to be made of the muddle of the so-called Transylvania Settlement project where Negro farmers and their families have been evicted from federal property despite promises of relief.

Dr. Alexander responded to communications which had been sent by this correspondent to President Roosevelt. In his answer, the administrator stated:

"Your letter of January 9 and your letter of January 11, addressed to the President, have been referred to this administration for consideration and reply. On basis of several complaints received, a complete, independent investigation has already been ordered. Instructions have been given investigators to get in touch with you for any facts you may be able to give them."

News concerning the project has been difficult to get. Farmers who have been forced to move state that no word has been given them regarding their status and that they are still awaiting word from the government concerning relief on other plantations.

Negro leaders throughout the nation are eagerly awaiting the outcome of the investigation. Among those who have shown a definite interest in the Transylvania project, both in itself and in its relation to Negro farmers throughout the South are:

The Rev. L. K. Williams, president of the National Baptist Convention; Louis M. Israel, head of the Knights of Peter Claver; S. W. Green, president of the Liberty Industrial Life Insurance Co.; Dr. William Stuart Nelson, president of Dillard University; Dr. Felton G. Clark, president of Southern University;

TRANSYLVANIA PROBE STARTS

Federal Investigators Contact Courier Representative for Conference To Learn "Other Side" of Story.

TRANSYLVANIA, La., Feb. 23—Federal investigators from the Birmingham, Ala., office, were in Transylvania and in New Orleans investigating claims of unfair treatment of Negro tenant farmers in the recent eviction from the Transylvania Farm Security Administration property. A conference with A. P. Tureaud, Leon Lewis, George McDemmond and D. C. W. Taylor was held in New Orleans, and statements were taken from these men who have made trips of investigation to the site of the alleged mistreatments. The investigators also visited the Transylvania territory and held conferences with the various individuals, and with assembled bodies. No report has been given on the results of the investigation.

In the meantime, information has been given through the Associated Negro Press, and through the office of the administration that the program of building was to begin with in a few weeks, the contracts having been let to a firm in Bunkie, La. It was not stated whether or not the farmers who had been in Transylvania had been selected for the Negro project.

In the meanwhile, nothing has been done to relieve the poor school facilities existing in Transylvania territory for Negroes. No word has been yet received as to when the building would begin and when the plans might be realized.

TRANSYLVANIA FARM AREA DISPUTE ENDS

Let Contracts for 147 Farm Units

THOMASTON, La., Feb. 16 — (ANP)—With the letting of a contract Tuesday to contractor E. Rabalais for construction of 147 farmstead units on the lands of LeDelta farms, Farm Security administration's big project for Negroes, it was learned that peace at last reigns in the controversial Transylvania area and that matters hitherto in dispute have been amicably settled.

A recent investigation made by representatives of the government and an ANP official revealed that one of the main points at issue was that Negro farmers had settled on land set aside for the white FSA project and whites were living on the land allotted for the Negro farmstead project. This difficulty has been satisfactorily settled. It was learned that both white and colored farmers have been duly notified of the exact location of both projects and that the planned farmstead program has been explained fully to them.

Share Equally

The white project will be a duplicate of the LaDelta farmstead development for Negroes, and both white and colored farmers will share alike in provisions of the Farm Resettlement Act.

A FSA representative, making a tour of the projects, said, "It is the intention of the FSA to extend all assistance possible in rehabilitating farmers. It does not intend to give them fully developed farms on a platter, but to furnish adequate financial aid, time and supervision so that they may rehabilitate themselves.

"In accordance with this rule it is the farmer's ability, his qualifications and willingness to cooperate with government efforts that determines success of the project and continued governmental support. In a program of this sort, dissatisfactions and misapprehensions are likely to occur, but in this instances they are proportionately few."

Have Fine Record

Among the other smaller experimental Louisiana projects visited by the investigating group was the Phillips Tract, just North of Lake Provident. All farmers on this project have made an enviable record in its first year of operation. They have rerazed all the old, dilapidated cabins found on the land and are proud of the fine homes and well developed farms they now possess.

Officials said that in the Thomaston area (white) there are 12,024 acres and in Transylvania (Negro), 9,852 acres, but that the tracts are practically equal because of the acres of wooded land in the Thomaston section.

FEDERAL FUNDS-1939
RESETTLEMENT PROJECTS

New Charter Obtained For Dyess Colony

Federal Project Status Is Proclaimed For Arkansas Group

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., March 22.—(AP)—Operators of Dyess Colony, $3,000,000 Government financed rural rehabilitation project in eastern Arkansas, obtained a new charter today which replied indirectly to a State administration effort to investigate the project.

During the recent session of the General Assembly a Senate filibuster blocked final action on an administration supported resolution to provide for investigation of the colony by the State Corporation Commission. Sponsors of the resolution said the purpose of the proposed investigation was to determine if the State had any interest in the colony.

The original charter of the colony's operating company, Dyess Colony, Inc.—was revoked last week by Governor Carl E. Bailey in a proclamation which said the corporation had failed to pay its State franchise tax for three consecutive years. The total delinquency claimed amounted to $33 plus a 25 per cent penalty. Colony attorneys said the project was a Federal agency and therefore was exempt from the franchise tax.

The new corporation, as was its predecessor, is headed by State WPA Administrator Floyd Sharp with whom the Governor long has been at odds. The name of the new operating firm was given as Dyess Rural Rehabilitation Corporation. Other incorporators were H. C. Baker and R. C. Limerick, WPA officials who, with Sharp, constituted the old corporation, and V. V. Van Arsdel and Ralph Coleman, State WPA executives. It was registered as a benevolent, non-profit corporation with five shares of no-par value stock.

The charter obtained today differed from the old in the inclusion of the following paragraph, specifically defining the Dyess project as Federal Government property.

"It is a benevolent, non-profit corporation and no dividends shall ever be paid to any stockholder. The finances and properties which it proposes to manage and administer were furnished originally and provided by the United States of America for rural rehabilitation and other purposes."

Baker, deputy WPA administrator for Arkansas, who was elected secretary and treasurer of the Dyess Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, in a formal statement asserted:

"Formation of the new corporation is not in any sense an effort to evade any obligations of the old corporation Provision has been made for the new corporation to assume all outstanding obligations of the old. Necessarily, if it shall at any time be legally determined that the old corporation was liable for franchise tax, it will be paid."

Approximately 500 families, taken off relief, form the population of the colony in Mississippi County, and under a cooperative plan will eventually become owners of the homes and farms.

"Land of The Noble Free"

By LAYLE LANE

A few years ago a graduate of the agricultural department of Hampton Institute, Thomas Roberts, was offered a scholarship to continue his excellent work in the field of agriculture. His decision was to utilize the scholarship in specializing in land economics at the University of Wisconsin.

The adviser evidently thought—what can a Negro do with such a technical subject and where will he ever use it? for he tried to discourage Mr. Roberts from entering this field.

"Unless I can study what I want to, I won't take the scholarship," said the independent Mr. Roberts, and he had his way.

Today his wisdom and training are finding splendid use in the Tuskegee Resettlement Project of which he is manager. I had the privilege of being shown the area and seeing for myself how intelligent planning and adequate funds are transforming land worn bare by both man and nature.

Negro boys, who see no future in association with the soil will find here a concrete realization of the results of a few years work, for abandoned lands are now grown beautiful with long leaved and lob-lolly pine, with well built roads and more important than all with promise of a satisfactory life for all connected with them. Boys will find, too, in the activities carried on a land utilization project new vocations to prepare for—a major concern in these times of unemployed youth.

Excerpts from Mr. Roberts' report will give a vivid picture of the scope of the work and the opportunities it offers:

* * * *

"THE TUSKEGEE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT is a Land Utilization Project designed to purchase and develop submarginal farm land in Macon County, Alabama and rededicate this acreage to more profitable and desirable uses; also to aid and assist stranded farmers found on these submarginal areas in getting resettled and or rehabilitated on better land under credit and supervisory conditions. The Project is under the supervision of the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Division of Land Utilization. There are 11,200 acres of land to be used for forestry, forest Nursery Development, Grazing, Wild Life or small game Management, Recreational Facilities and Erosion Control. When did land development work begin? Land development work began December 9, 1935. The accomplishments to date are impressive.

"WILD LIFE MANAGEMENT:
"50 acres of land developed for game food and cover crops; 300 pairs of American Quail liberated and protected; Improved forest cover over the entire Project Area by forest fire prevention; 2 miles of stream and bank improvement; 56,000 fish stocked in the stream; Note: Small game (Squirrels, quail, dove, etc.) have increased more than 500 percent in 2 and one half years of forest fire protection and control.

"EROSION CONTROL:
"5,000 check dams completed; 20,000 Kuduz plants set; 800 acres of general erosion control; 2,000 acres of improved grass and tree cover; 2 miles of diversion ditches.

"RECREATION:
"60 acres cleared; 2 picnic areas equipped with A-type shelters, barbecue pits, outdoor ovens, tables, benches, springs, toilet facilities, baseball field; 4 wayside parks with shelters, tables and ovens; Trails and nooks for horseback riding or hiking.

"What additional work is contemplated in completing

"FORESTRY:
"1,750,000 trees (pines and hardwood), have been planted on 1,700 acres of abandoned fields and denuden hillsines. 35 miles of truck trails have been constructed; 10.5 miles of telephone lines have been built; 1 complete Towerman's Unit, including a 100-feet stell observation Tower, Towerman's House, Barn, Poultry House, Garage, Wood Shed, Hog House and General Landscaping; 1 five-acre forest Nursery with overhead irrigation system; 1,000,000 Seedlings produced; 30 miles of firebreaks; 2000 acres of general forest stand improvement.

"GRAZING:
"1,460 acres have been practically cleared and erosion checked; 200 acres cutlivated and seeded to pasture grasses, (Lespedeza, Clovers, Dallis, Carpet, Kentucky Blue Grass, Bermuda, Kudza); 11 miles of line and cross fences completed; 1 Corral and Loading Ramp built; 3 Cattle Guards constructed.

FEDERAL FUNDS-1939
RESETTLEMENT PROJECTS

New Charter Obtained For Dyess Colony

Federal Project Status Is Proclaimed For Arkansas Group

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basic Project Development (1938-1939)?

1. Impounding Dam: Creating a lake of approximately 20 acres with facilities such as a pavilion, diving towers, shelters, tables, benches and bathing beach; 2. Worker's Units, each including a house, barn, smoke house, poultry house, hog lot, etc.; 5 miles of telephone lines connecting the Project Office with the field; 15 premanent wooden bridges on roads and trails; 1 work Center containing a 7-truck garage, tool and repair shop, pump house, grease rack, wash rack and other facilities for maintenance and care of motorized equipment and the storage of field supplies and materials 1,000,000 pine and hardwood seedlings to be planted on Project Area next season (February 1-April 1939); 4. Cattle sheds and feed racks in pasture area; General maintenance of all completed activities.

What progress has been made in resettling and rehabilitating stranded farmers on the Project Area?

29 families have been resettled and granted Lease and Purchase Contracts on newly constructed Farmsteads at Prairie Farms Project, Tysonville, Alabama; 42 families have moved from the Project and have been provided Rehabilitation Loans and Grants; 29 families have made independent arrangements for their own rehabilitation on better land; 33 families remain on the Project area. 23 of these families will be resettled or rehabilitated off the Project this fall; 8 of the 133 families referred to the Department of Public Welfare. It is proposed that the Project be turned over to Tuskegee Institute for the establishment of a Division of Conservation, where Negro youth may have the opportunity to study forestry, game and wild life management, ercsion control, pasture development and general land utilization in an environment typical of the problems they must solve.

THE FORGOTTEN FAMILES OF GEE'S BEND SETTLEMENT

Federal Agency discovers 100 familes living since Civil War on abandoned plantation have no contatc with outside world.

Camden, Ala.- Aug. 24- The U.S. Resettlement Administration is fast transforming the Gee's Bend Settlement in a curve of the Alabama river, 40 miles from here, where some 100 families, isolated at times almost forgotten, have lived under the most primitive conditions since the Civil War on an abandoned plantation.

When representatives of the Federal Agency went there to investigate the possibilities of rehabilitating the community, however, they found these people, despite the eking out of the mere existence for generations by haphazard farming and hunting in the nearby woods and swamps, to be of strong, intelligent, resourceful stock, and very much worth salvaging.

So the resettlement administration stepped in,bought 10,000 acres of land including and surrounding the community and allotted to subsistance tracts, built them houses, provided them with small stocks of cattle, hogs and poultry, replaced inferior horses and mules with better one and supplied modern farming implements. Barns and outhouses were built. Recently a cooperative store and blacksmith shop were added, and a grist mill and warehouse are being built with a cotton gin soon to be put in commission.

Though they have responded enthusiastically, gratefully and wholeheartedly to the moderrizing process at every stage, the people in Gee's Bend have not changed in some ways, and it.probably will be a long time before they do. They are still suspicious of strangers, refuse to play games because they regard them as sinful, and insist on having their kitchens separate from their house.

Courier
August 26, 1939
Pittsburgh,Pa.